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WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 1, 1954

I answered this morning President Eisenhower's letter as follows:

"Paris
December 1, 1954

"Dear Mr. President:

"Please excuse my delay in answering your very kind letter, which arrived here while I was on a trip in Italy.

"I am deeply grateful to you for your continued confidence in me, and I have given renewed and careful consideration to the question of working in the State Department. However, I feel definitely that I am not prepared to do so. I believe I would not be useful in a position for which I have neither aptitude nor inclination.

"I have reached this decision only after serious reflection, especially because of my esteem, and, if I may be permitted to say so, my affection for you.

"I shall keep in touch with Foster, and if occasions arise in which I might possibly be helpful you can rely on me to do so.

"With many thanks, warmest regards, and love from Vangie to Mamie and yourself, I am

Respectfully yours,

/s/ DAVID BRUCE."

I had lunch with de Staercke.

Graham Martin came to see me and we discussed the future.

Cleaned up accumulated correspondence, then went home and started to pack.

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